

Evening Telegraph PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED), AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, No. 108 S. THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 1870.

THE DELEGATE ELECTIONS.

To-morrow will be big with the fate of the ambitious Republican politicians of Philadelphia. We publish elsewhere sketches of all the candidates for county offices, Congress, State Senator, and State Legislature, and when it is remembered that the people are called upon to discriminate not only among those who compose this formidable array, but also among an innumerable army of aspirants for the ward offices, some idea may be formed of the herculean task which is thrust upon them by the present system.

Congress has an immense amount of very important work to do before the end of the session, and it would be much more satisfactory to the country if it would confine itself strictly to its legitimate business, and let investigations into the conduct of Tom, Dick, and Harry alone until the real business of the country is disposed of. A case like the one now before the House is unworthy of its consideration, and that body goes outside of its legitimate functions when it undertakes to inquire how and why one of its members happened to receive a black eye.

RAILROAD GRANTS IN THE FAR WEST.

An interesting digest of the extent of the public domain west of the Mississippi, prepared by the "Veteran Observer" of the New York Times, which was recently published in this journal, knocks a great deal of the nonsense out of the virulent opposition to the land grant to the Northern Pacific Railroad. It appears that even if 120,000,000 acres are given to this and other continental railroads there will still remain 873,000,000 acres unsold and unappropriated, exclusive of Alaska, so that emigrants who wish to settle in regions remote from railroads can be fully accommodated for an indefinite period of time. In Pennsylvania we have now a population of more than one person for every ten acres of land, and nearly half our territory remains unutilized. By the time the region west of the Mississippi is equally well filled up it will contain one hundred millions of people, and even then room will be left there for new accessions of population. But it is on or near the railway lines, above all other places, that settlements will first be established. In former times the rivers were necessarily selected as the centres of civilization because they offered the only natural facilities of cheap and speedy travel and transportation. Now railroads perform the same office in a much more satisfactory manner, and bring the farmer and his products within baffling distance of civilization, whether he breaks ground in Minnesota or Nevada. No-body works half as hard to put public lands in the market, and to crowd them with settlers, as the railroad companies which obtain land grants. Their pecuniary salvation depends on the establishment of settlements, for without them, neither the land nor the iron track is worth a baubee. The man who bemoans a land grant to a live company in an important and fertile region, on the ground that it will retard settlement, should study the history of the operations of the Illinois Central Railway, and trace their stupendous influence in advancing the Garden State to a foremost rank in the American sisterhood. The argument founded on the allegation that land grants and gigantic railroads will necessarily enrich a few speculators is superficial. In this age, progress, improvement, and marked success of any description necessarily put money into the pockets of those who encounter the risks and surmount the difficulties involved in great enterprises. If we are to stop every wheel which renders a profit to its owner, we shall soon be brought to a standstill. The projects which do not pay in some shape are necessarily forced, sooner or later, to stop from sheer inanition, and if we arouse public indignation against every enterprise that may permanently prove remunerative, we shall retire from the ranks of live nations into the hopeless and helpless company of effete conservatives. If we had stopped the war because contractors made money by furnishing supplies, or if we had told railroad men for the last thirty years that they should never realize a dollar of profit on their operations, America to-day would be the scow of her rivals instead of an object of mingled dread and admiration.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AS A POLICE COURT.

The exact nature and extent of the privileges of members of Congress are beginning to be matters of serious interest to the people of the United States, and also the authority of the Senate and House to imprison persons charged with disrespect or other offenses, or to seize without any other form of law than a resolution the private papers and property of citizens. Of late, the House of Representatives especially has been exercising an almost unlimited power in these particulars, and as the fondness for conducting inquisitorial investigations seems to be increasing, it is well that an energetic protest should be made before the evil attains such a magnitude that it will be difficult to deal with. The power that has been exercised by the House very frequently of late is a dangerous one at the best, and it would be open to the most serious objections if it were lodged only in the hands of virtuous, high-toned, and honorable men. Unfortunately, however, the majority of the men in Congress are neither virtuous, high-toned, or honorable, and the results achieved by the various investigating committees during the past few years have not been such as to inspire the public with much respect for the men comprising them, or with much regard for the superiority of this method of executing justice over the ordinary forms of law. Many of the investigations undertaken by the House have apparently had their origin in private malice, and they have been chiefly characterized by unseemly wrangles and exhibitions of general blackguardism on the part of the members of committees, witnesses, and persons accused of offenses, by irregular and illegal seizure of private papers, and by a total disregard for any of the constitutional or legal rights of citizens, while the practical results have in the majority of instances been either to make the investigation ridiculous or to cover up and extenuate offenses that deserved punishment. The whole business of conducting investigations by committees of Congress is fast becoming both ridiculous and dangerous, and the scene that occurred in the House of Representatives on Saturday is a fair example of the improper exercise of the power claimed by the two branches of Con-

gress to order the arrest and imprisonment of real or imaginary offenders, and to send for persons and papers, without any limit to the discretion of committees. Week before last Hon. Charles H. Porter, a member of the House from Virginia, became involved in a quarrel with an Irishman named Patrick Woods in the streets of Richmond. Several accounts are given of the affair, which seems to have had its origin in whiskey; but as the result was the infliction of a sound thrashing by the Hibernian on the sacred person of the Congressman, the latter has gone like a big baby to the House of Representatives, and besought its interference for the punishment of his assailant. The House unhesitatingly complied, and on Saturday the offender was brought before it by the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the whole matter was referred to the Judiciary Committee, Woods, meanwhile, being remanded to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and imprisoned in the crypt of the Capitol. This would certainly seem to be a case for the attention of the Richmond municipal authorities rather than for the National House of Representatives, and for the House to constitute itself a general police court every time one of its members, in any part of the country, may happen to engage in a drunken brawl, is not only to lower its dignity, but to set a precedent that cannot fail to be productive of serious consequences in the future. The man Woods probably deserves any punishment that may be inflicted upon him, but the Hon. Charles H. Porter does not appear to be any better than his assailant; and how Woods could have violated any of Porter's privileges as a member of Congress by beating him in Richmond, unless for some official act, is exceedingly difficult to understand.

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OBITUARY.

William Gilmore Simms. On Saturday evening William Gilmore Simms, the well-known poet and novelist, died in Savannah, Georgia, at the age of sixty-four years. Mr. Simms was of Irish descent, and was born at Charleston, South Carolina, April 17, 1806. He early manifested a talent for literary pursuits, but various circumstances combined to prevent him from obtaining many educational advantages. He commenced life as a clerk in a drug store, but afterwards studied law and was admitted to the bar. The law did not suit him, however, and he drifted into journalism, becoming, in 1828, editor of the Charles-

OBITUARY.

ton Gazette. This paper declared for the Union during the nullification excitement, and became so unpopular that Mr. Simms was forced to relinquish it. He then removed to Hingham, Massachusetts, where he wrote his longest and most elaborate poem, "Aikinship, a Story of the Sea," which was published in New York in 1838. This brought him into notice as a litterateur, and he rapidly produced a number of works of poetry, history, romance, and miscellaneous sketches and essays, which achieved considerable popularity. Since 1845 he took no active part in politics, but during and after the Rebellion he produced some very brilliant verses and magazine articles, glorifying secession and the "lost cause," which added nothing to his reputation. As a poet Mr. Simms did not make any decided mark, although he was the author of a number of verses that achieved considerable popularity in their day. He is best known by his prose romances, which are numerous and entertaining.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

For additional Special Notices see the Inside Pages.

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A Public Temperance Meeting will be held TO-MORROW (Tuesday) EVENING at 8 o'clock.

Address by Rev. A. W. WATKINS, D. D.

Discussion upon the address.

Temperance Recitations by Prof. and Mrs. J. W. SPOCKMAYER.

Vocal and instrumental music under the direction of Prof. JOHN BOWLER.

The public are invited.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LEO LLOYD,

from Liberia, will address the Merchants and Manufacturers of Philadelphia upon the best means to secure the trade of Western Africa, and why the English, Dutch, and French have supplanted American commerce in that region, on THIS (Monday) EVENING, June 13, at 8 o'clock, at the rooms of the Board of Trade, No. 55 CHESTNUT STREET.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE "OLD MAN'S HOME" will be celebrated on THURSDAY, JUNE 16, at the "HOME," THIRTY-NINTH and POWELLTON AVENUE (Arch Street), PHILADELPHIA. Addresses may be expected from Dr. BRADLEY, Rev. G. DANA BOARDMAN, and other eminent speakers.

INTERESTING TO THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.—The Gospel Doctrine of Salvation, with a View of its Resulting Obligations and Active Duties by T. K. JONES, published by G. W. GARDNER, No. 740 SANBORN STREET. Price 10c. apiece, \$1 per dozen, \$6 per hundred.

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POLITICAL.

T E N T H W A R D.

At a regular stated meeting of the

REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

TENTH WARD,

held at their Headquarters on the 8th of May, 1870, the following

RESOLUTIONS,

offered by GEORGE MORRISON COATES, Esq., were

unanimously adopted and ordered to be published:—

Resolved, That the valuable and long-continued services rendered to the Republican cause by WILLIAM H. LEEDS, and the fearless fidelity with which he has discharged every duty imposed upon him in the various positions to which he has been called, and in which he has served the Republican party without compensation or reward, entitle him to the confidence and gratitude of his political friends, and particularly of this Committee, which for fourteen years consecutively has enjoyed the benefit of his able and patriotic labors.

Resolved, That we know of no man in the Republican party who has labored more honestly, more zealously, or more unselfishly for its cause than WILLIAM H. LEEDS, and that both as a party man and citizen we respectfully and heartily recommend him to our fellow citizens as the Republican candidate FOR SHERIFF OF PHILADELPHIA.

Resolved, That, independent of all party considerations, we can conscientiously recommend Mr. LEEDS as a citizen worthy to be trusted, as a just and upright man, who has never eaten the bread of idleness nor dishonesty, or oppressed the poor, and as a gentleman in all respects qualified to perform, with satisfaction to the public and honor to himself, the duties of the office of Sheriff of Philadelphia.

JOSHUA SPRING,

President Executive Committee.

Attest—JOHN F. POLE,

Secretary. 613 2c

FOR SHERIFF, 1870.

F. T. WALTON,

SUBJECT TO THE DECISION OF THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

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FRED. SYLVESTER.

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